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ALASKA People



November/December 1999

We ARE Y2K Ready!!

Not everyone will be partying at midnight on December 31, 1999. There will be employees working at the Alaska Fire Service (AFS), and Northern Field and Alaska State offices to insure our computers, telecommunications and BLM facilities function properly for the upcoming New Year.

Employees at our Joint Pipeline Office will be working with Alyeska Pipeline Co. to assure the safety and functioning of the Trans-Alaska pipeline. **Gary Reimer**, Deputy Authorized Officer at JPO, will reside at Alyeska's "war room" in Anchorage where information is continually fed regarding the operations of the pipeline.

"JPO has closely monitored Y2K preparations for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System for several months," says Reimer. "We will remain at a heightened level of alertness and monitoring until extensive equipment checks and re-starts have been completed. Personnel will be on duty in Valdez, Fairbanks, and Anchorage before, during, and after the December 31 - January 1 cross over."

Three BLM rangers and a special agent will also be on call in case of any criminal activity occurring on the pipeline.

Leading BLM-Alaska's Y2K effort is State Point of Contact (POC) **Don Hinrichsen**, Deputy State

Director for Support Services. His immediate backup and POC alternate is **Garth Olson**. Olson assumes Y2K day-to-day responsibilities and also coordinates Information Technology services for BLM Alaska. Another key person is **Allen Deitz**, the State Y2K project lead who is responsible for Y2K planning. He also oversees the Day 1 plan for the State Office.

A Y2K plan, officially called the *Day 1 plan* will kick into place at each BLM office on January 1. For example, at the Anchorage Campbell Tract Facility, maintenance supervisor **Ned Darling** will start walking through the CTF buildings by 1 a.m., checking for the availability of utilities and the functioning of the boiler, electronic locks, and heating and computer systems, etc. Darling doesn't anticipate any Y2K problems because staff has been working throughout the year testing and replacing computer chips, upgrading software, etc. If he encounters any problems, a staff is on standby. The plan is to resolve any problems before employees come back to work on Monday, January 3.

Tim Shannon, AFS facilities supervisor, responsible for the physical operations of BLM's buildings in Fairbanks, says it should be business as usual. It's

normal policy that staff work after hours when temperatures are subzero. "Three to four people will be working that evening (31st). Temperatures could be around -40 F so the heating system can't go down, not even for a few hours," he says. "The only thing we ever worry about is losing power."

Coinciding with Y2K readiness, the BLM has continuity of operations plans. These "disaster plans" ensure our capability to perform essential business and management functions under any emergency. Complementing these plans are contingency plans for each office in case computer systems fail. Under these plans, business functions would be completed the old fashioned way—by hand. These plans cover everything from payroll, the Alaska Land Record System to such things as e-mail and the Internet.

Y2K coordinators

(responsible for Y2K planning & Day 1 plan)

AFS - Bev Fronterhouse
Northern Field, Tok, Kotzebue & Nome offices - Susan Will
Glennallen Field Office - Cathie Jensen
Campbell Tract Facility - Bob Conquergood
Juneau Mineral Information Center - Peter Bittenbender

Student Looks To A Career in BLM Management

by Andy Williams

The Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) has worked well for Jose Carrillo, a student at New Mexico Highlands University, who is finishing his second season working for the Northern Field Office.

In 1998, the environmental sciences major got a taste of diverse work assignments during his first year in the program at the Northern Field Office. He did stream surveys in the Coldfoot area with hydrologist **Jon Kostohrys**, traveled with wildlife biologist **Anne Morkill** to Nome for meetings of the Western Arctic Caribou Management Advisory Council, radio-tracked caribou in the Ray Mountains with wildlife biologist **Randi Jandt**, and participated in a grouse habitat improvement project with **Tami DeFries** of the Alaska Fire Service and **Steve Reidsma** of the Army's Natural Resource Division of Fort Wainwright. In addition, Carrillo helped

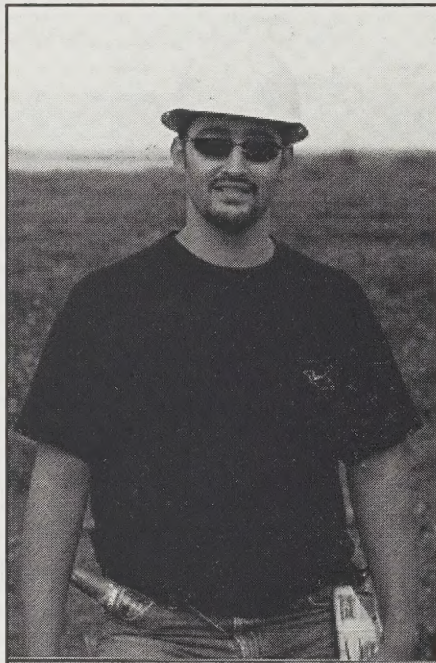
groom winter trails in the White Mountains National Recreation Area.

During his second season in Alaska, Carrillo focused more on hazardous materials work. He assisted hazardous materials

specialist **Susan Flora** with the clean up of an abandoned airport site at Sagwon that had been used during early oil exploration days. He coordinated the burning of wood from the dismantled buildings at the site. He also assisted in GPS work at several hazmat sites in the Nome area, and completed required Hazwoper training and the EPA's class on sampling for hazardous materials.

Carrillo plans to complete the spring semester in New Mexico and then return for the summer season in Fairbanks. His long-range plans are to finish his education in 2001, return to Alaska for five or 10 years, then work his way up the management ladder in the Washington Office.

His Northern Field Office co-workers think he'll succeed. "We've been fortunate to have Jose, who is certainly bound for big things in BLM," says associate field manager **Susan Will**. SCEP, a DOI program, allows students to get on-the-job training while pursuing a degree in natural sciences or business administration. *Andy Williams is a writer-editor for the Alaska Fire Service.*



Jose Carrillo

Former RAPS Student Is Vice-Mayor of Deering

Nine years ago, **Walter Gregg** was a RAPS student working with the former Kobuk District staff. Gregg recently contacted his mentor, natural resource specialist **Herb Brownell** with news that he is the vice-mayor of Deering, a town located on the north side of the Seward Peninsula, overlooking Kotzebue Sound.

Gregg was a RAPS student for three years, then served in the Navy for four years. He's been in Deering for the past two years.

Gregg said the RAPS experience was extremely beneficial to his career development and his favorite experiences were conducting a waterfall survey and going out on mine sites.

"I'm not surprised," Brownell said of his former student's advancement.

Additional Time Codes Authorized

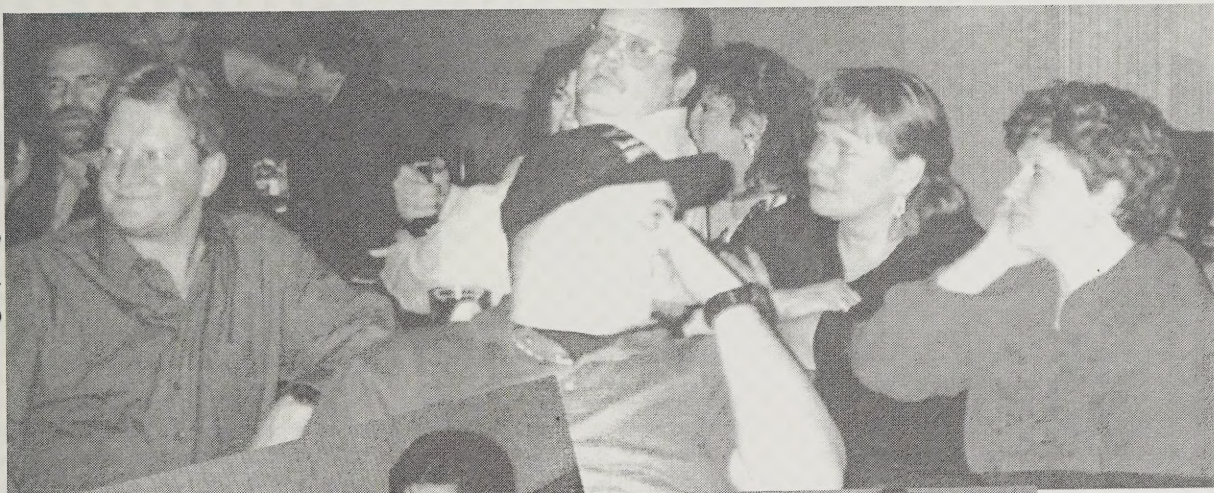
In response to repeated questions by employees, the National Activity Based Coding Coordination Committee has authorized additional program elements that may more accurately reflect an employee's time. The new codes are effective beginning pay period 1.

YAKK	phone calls
ELCM	expresso, latte, capachino and mocha
BYBY	planning retirement
LALA	general daydreaming
VRRM	roaming the halls
PSST	gossiping about coworkers
PU2U	smoke break
ZZZZ	meetings
%&!	trying to fill out a timesheet with new authorized codes

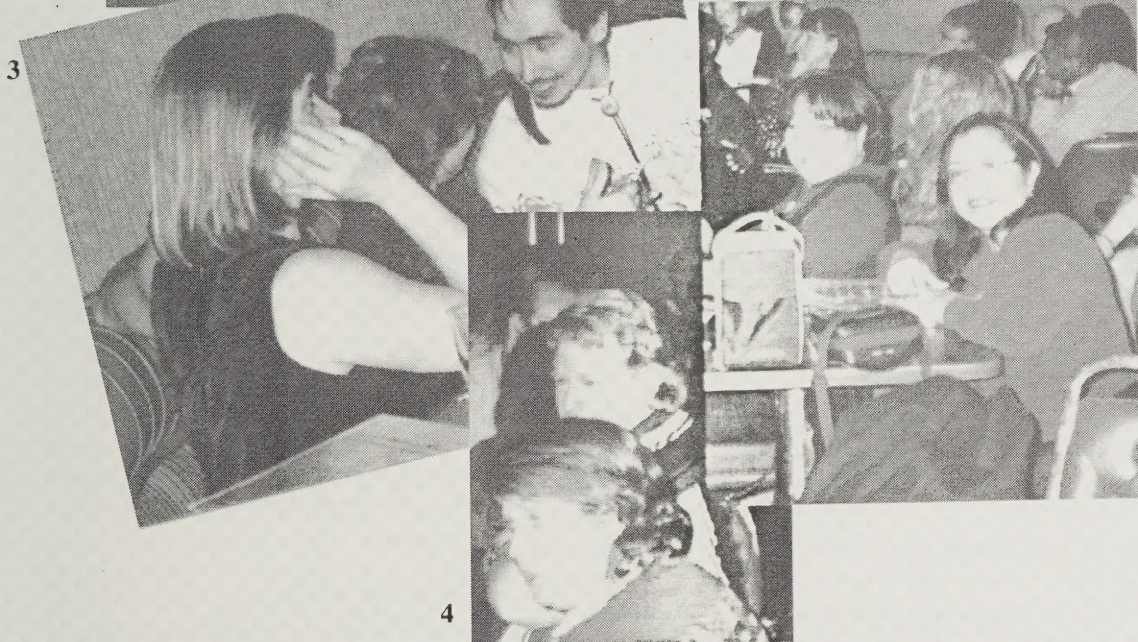
Note: in no case should the above codes exceed 50% of the hours coded in a pay period. Where none of these codes appears appropriate use the default code of DUHH.

One Kickin' Christmas Party

photos by Ramone Garcia-S



1



1 Steve Flippen and Kathy Flippen brought their friends.

2 (r) Rose Garcia-S (Ramone's wife) is a wonderful karaoke singer.

3 Glenn Elliott chats with Anne Jeffery.

4. Marcia Hunt and Ron Royer in serious discussion.

Anchorage BLM employees rocked Asia Gardens at their Christmas party on December 3. Inhibitions were left at the door as partyers did some serious karaoke singing and dancing. **John Miller**, the party organizer, sang an extremely cool rendition of "My Girl" by the Temptations, complete with backup vocals. Not to be outdone, **Ron Hunt** wailed a few songs in between groovin' on the dance floor. "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" was performed by BLM women having a lot of fun—**Anne Jeffery, Chris Sitbon, Cheryl Fusco, Julie Overbaugh, Marcia Hunt** and **Linda Dildine**. While

former BLMer **Shirley Spurlock** sang a soulful "Spirit in the Sky."

Standout performances however belonged to BLMers' significant others. **Sandy Wallace's** boyfriend, Brook Hair (who could have filled in for Garth Brooks) was wonderful singing "My Maria" and "Callin' Baton Rouge." Perhaps the showstopper was the song "Blue," sung beautifully by **Rose Garcia-S** (Ramone's wife).

Between karaoke sessions, the disc jockey played requests ranging from country, to golden oldies, and rhythm & blues. Miller instigated a lot of line dancing and en masse boogying. My teenage

daughter (who had begged to come), and a friend, danced with all of us revelers and declared it one of the best parties she had attended." She said, "Mom you work with some really fun and crazy people."

Well, it wasn't your typical hum Christmas party thanks to Miller. Perhaps the \$3 entrance fee appealed to the most thrifty of BLMers. It is rumored that due to popular demand Miller is planning another karaoke/dancing party sometime near Valentine's Day. So keep singing in the shower and keep your dancing shoes polished.

—The Editor

The Workplace: Isn't What It Used To Be

by Scott Guyer



Changes in the workplace are creating stress, but change is inevitable in the government and the corporate workplace. Change is **CONSTANT**.

Our grandparents and many of our parents grew up devoting their entire worklife to one company. Today, research shows that the average professional will change jobs seven times during a career. With a mobile workforce and common use of flexi-place, computers and e-mail, jobs are chang-

ing. Corporations no longer expect to employ anyone for an entire career. Hiring temporary workers and contractors for specific projects and tasks is now common. The government began to adopt these changes a few years ago.

Stephen M. Pollan, in his book, "Die Broke," suggests that we should no longer derive our self esteem, self identity or self worth from our work. Instead, we should see work as a means to achieve financial gain that can then be

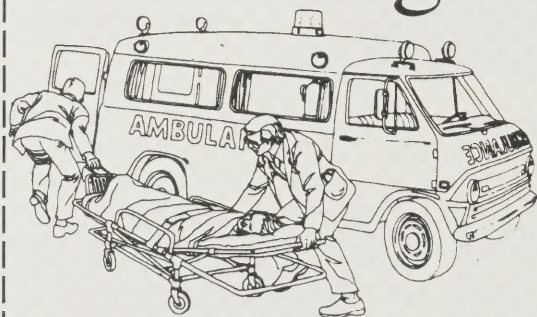
used away from work to enjoy our lives, build self-esteem and foster relationships.

We should see ourselves as free agents, seeking the highest pay for our talents and abilities. Job security no longer exists. Don't make your career your life. When changes happen, learn to change with them. The successful professional embraces and accepts change as a part of the new, evolving workplace environment.

Scott Guyer is a general biologist with the Division of Cadastral Survey

Health

Surviving a



Heart Attack: ALONE

The holidays can bring stress and overindulgence for many Alaskans whether it's too much combat shopping, eating or drinking. This behavior puts us at risk for suffering some health-related malady. The big "H" or heart attack should be of particular concern.

Although we may think it will never happen to us, it's not wise

to assume that someone will be around to perform CPR if you do have a heart attack.

If you have the misfortune to experience a heart attack while alone, do the following: Take a deep breath (this gets oxygen to your lungs) and then cough deeply. The cough should be deep and prolonged as to produce sputum from deep inside the chest. Coughing squeezes the heart and

keeps the blood circulating and helps the heart regain its normal rhythm. This procedure should give you enough time between breaths to phone the authorities for help. A breath and cough must be repeated every two seconds until help comes.

If your heart stops beating you have 10 seconds before losing consciousness. So follow these directions and share this information with as many people as possible. It could save their lives!!

**Source—
Health Care, Rochester General
Hospital via Chapter 240's newsletter
AND THE BEAT GOES ON.**

Cool News

LLE Wears Many Hats. The Susitna Girl Scout Council named **Betty Lockard** and her husband, Randy, Couple of the Year for 1999. By day, Betty is an experienced land law examiner for the ASO Division of Conveyances. After hours, she's a tireless Girl Scout troop leader and service unit co-leader, who trains and supports other scout leaders. Council president Carol Scott recognized the couple at ceremonies in November, saying Betty and Randy were "an integral part of Girl Scouting, the first to be there and the last to leave at any scouting event or function." Congrats, Betty and Randy!

Fitness Facility Update. A 1,145 square-foot space, located behind security's offices on the ground floor of the federal building has been slated as the area for new GSA fitness center. Adjoining the space will be separate locker rooms for men and women measuring more than 300 square feet each. Two shower stalls, benches and stacked lockers will be primary features. In the fitness area, the preliminary design dedicates half of the space to strength-training machines and the other half to aerobic equipment – treadmills, bicycles, elliptical trainers and stair steppers. Employees will access the facility by a key card. A meeting of agency representatives will be held in January to discuss equipment needs and other aspects of the project. The GSA property manager says the facility should be operational by April 2000. For more information about the project or to give your input contact BLM's representative, **Danielle Allen** at 271-3335.



(l-r) Jim Murray NFO retiree, Dan Gullickson, NFO audio visual specialist and NFO field manager Bob Schneider are in the process of reviewing records for the annual Chena Kiwanis Club Christmas Choo Choo Train raffle, which raises funds for local charities.

ASD Mistaken As Protestor. This month, new ASD **Linda Rundell** displayed a sense of humor—a must for any Associate State Director—at her first all employees meeting. She told how she and her husband were making the drive from New Mexico to Alaska when she was mistaken for a World Trade Organization protester in Seattle. She admitted that after being on the road so long, that she didn't exactly look her management best, but assured the inquirer that she was a future sourdough moving to Alaska.

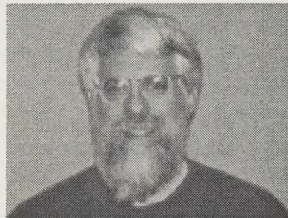
Northern Field Office Gives Big for Charity. The Northern Field Office annual White Elephant Auction held Dec. 15, netted more than \$3,500 of employee pledges for gift-wrapped packages.

Fort Egbert Model on Display at the White House. First lady Hillary Clinton has a scaled replica of the noncommissioned officers quarters at Ft. Egbert as a part of a collection of miniature historical properties on display at the White House. The NCO quarters is one of five standing buildings managed by BLM as part of the Ft. Egbert National Historic Landmark at Eagle, Alaska.

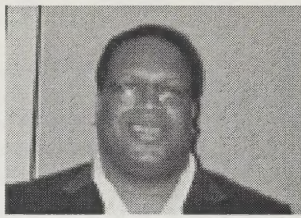
Last year BLM awarded the Eagle Historical Society a \$50,000 matching "Save America's Treasure's" grant for restoration of historical buildings at the Ft. Egbert National Historic site.

The NFO staff is hoping that interest in the model at the White House will allow the Eagle Historical Society an extension which would give the relatively small organization time to raise \$50,000 to match BLM's grant.

What should Santa Claus bring BLM for Christmas?

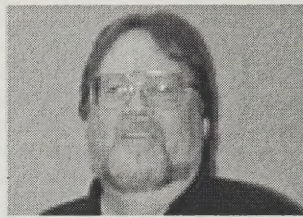


**Gene Ervine, Interpretive Specialist
Div. Lands, Minerals, Res.**
Vision, wisdom and courage.



**John Montgomery, Records Specialist
Div. Support Services**

I would like Santa to give every employee a 30 percent pay raise for the new millennium. Also good, health, cheer, and respect for the mission of the BLM, God and our country.



**Larry Crane, Law Enforcement Assistant
State Director's staff**

Santa brings toys to all good girls and boys. Many BLMers are childlike and have lots of toys such as computers, GPS's, cell phones, cameras, scanners, etc. So we don't need more toys. Santa should bring each person three smiles. The first to share with family and friends, and the second to share with a stranger. The third smile is just for you. This smile is to promote wisdom, kindness and understanding to everyone that you meet.

—In Memory—

Former Public Information Center employee, **Matthew Lee, Sr.**, died of cancer November 24, 1999, at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. He served in the Army during World War II. Lee worked for BIA before coming to BLM, where he retired in 1993. He was 70 years old.

Evelyn Powers, secretary for the McGrath Resource Area at the former Anchorage District Office, from 1983 until her retirement in 1986, died in Anchorage, December 14, 1999, from a stroke. She was a WWII U.S. Navy WAVES veteran and worked for the Civil Aeronautics Board before coming to BLM.

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